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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT**  
**TO 37 CFR §1.116 REQUESTED**  
**Attn: Mail Stop AF**

Applicants: Tetsuya HORI et al.

Serial No.: 09/988,994

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: **IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

Group: 2615

Examiner: Brian C. Genco

**RECEIVED**

FEB 11 2004

Technology Center 2600

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION AND**  
**REQUEST FOR AN IN-PERSON OFFICE INTERVIEW**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**February 9, 2004**

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action (Paper No. 17) dated on November 7, 2003, please consider and enter the following arguments and remarks against the outstanding rejection of claims 15-30 as follows. In addition, Applicants also request for an in-person Office Interview be scheduled and conducted as soon as practicable to advance the prosecution of the application.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.